

Serial No.: 10/078,196  
Group Art Unit: 2155  
Examiner: Oanh L. Duong

Amendment to the Drawings

Please enter the amendment to Fig. 1 embodied in the attached replacement sheet. Note that the character representing the "Local Network" has been changed from "18" to "118".

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended.

**In the Specification**

A replacement paragraph has been submitted to address the Objection to the Drawings noted in the Office Action at paragraph 2.

**In the Drawings**

Replacement Fig. 1 has been submitted to address the Objection to the Specification noted in the Office Action at paragraph 3.

**In the Claims**

Claims 1-5, 7-10, and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by *Gentry et al.* (US 6,799,210 B1); Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over *Gentry* in view of *Lindhorst-Ko* (US 6,725,401 B1); and Claims 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over *Gentry* in view of Admitted Prior Art.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to include, wherein the first control device comprises a first softswitch and the second control device comprises a second softswitch and each softswitch provides a status signal indicating a current operational status of one of operable, partially operable, and wholly inoperable, said determiner for allocating session control operations for performing session control of the selected ones of the media gateways to the first and second softswitches responsive to the provided status signal. Further, Independent Claim 15 has been amended to include similar wording as above-mentioned regarding Claim 1. Applicant asserts that no cited art teach or discloses these new limitations. For at least this reason, Applicant believes Claims 1 and 15 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-14; and 16-20 depends from and further limits, in a patentable sense, independent Claims 1 and 15, respectively, and hence are also submitted to be in condition for allowance



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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Bobby Slaton at (972) 519-2295.

Respectfully submitted,

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